

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 INT-05 STR-04

EUR-12 MC-02 ACDA-05 /124 W
----- 017823

R 261010Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4790

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KU

SUBJECT: SPRING 1976 TO BE A POLITICAL SEASON IN KUWAIT

1. IT IS BEGINNING TO APPEAR LIKELY THAT DOMESTIC
POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOCUSED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
WILLBECOME MORE ACTIVE DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS
IN KUWAIT. BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SUMMER WHEN PARLIA-
MENT ADJOURNS THERE ARE SEVERAL ISSUES WHICH COULD
SERVE TO HEIGHTEN POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES
BETWEEN GOK ON ONE HAND AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON
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THE OTHER.

2. GOK WILL BE SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR TWO IMPORTANT PROGRAMS. AS INDICATED IN PREVIOUS REPORTING GOK EXPECTED TO SEEK ABOUT \$3 BILLION FOR HOUSING PROGRAM, AND AS MUCH AS \$1 BILLION FOR MILITARY PROGRAM. CURRENTLY BEFORE PARLIAMENT IS KUWAIT OIL COMPANY TAKE-OVER AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE APPROVED TERMS OF GOK-GULF/BP AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPAL, ITS OBJECTION TO 15 CENT PER BARREL DISCOUNT AND ITS INSISTENCE ON PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF KOC BUDGET COULD BECOME THORNY ISSUES BETWEEN GOK AND LEGISLATURE.

3. ANOTHER POSSIBLE PROBLEM AREA HAS TO DO WITH NEW 5-YEAR PLAN. AS REPORTED SEPTEL PLAN SHOULD BE READY FOR FORMAL APPROVAL LATER THIS SPRING. GOK MAY TRY TO AVOID SUBMITTING PLAN TO ASSEMBLY FOR RATIFICATION. KUWAIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NEVER DID FORMALLY APPROVE FIRST PLAN, AND ALMOST CERTAINLY IF NEW PLAN WERE SUBMITTED TO LEGISLATURE, IT WOULD BECOME MIRED DOWN IN POLITICAL MANEUVERING. ON OTHER HAND, IF PLAN IS NOT SUBMITTED, DEPUTIES WILL RAISE A FUSS. EITHER WAY, THEREFORE, PLAN COULD BECOME A POLITICAL ISSUE LATER THIS YEAR.

4. THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE TAKING PLACE DURING A PERIOD IN WHICH INTERNAL SABAH FAMILY POLITICAL SITUATION IS APPARENTLY AT A DELICATE STAGE. IN ADDITION WE SUSPECT THAT SOME ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY, NOTABLY THE MERCHANT CLASS, MAY BE GETTING SOMEWHAT UNEASY OVER CLOSER KUWAIT-USSR RELATIONS AS EXEMPLIFIED BY VISITS OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE TO MOSCOW AND NEWS OF INTENTION BY GOK TO PURCHASE SOVIET ARMS.

5. FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN JANUARY 1975 LOCAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN RATHER QUIET. THIS PERIOD NOW SEEMS TO HAVE COME TO AN END AND BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT JULY GOK WILL HAVE A FULL PLATE OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES TO OCCUPY ITS ATTENTION.
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